

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 17 MAY 2020

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans as well as in English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio and text bulletins may be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za. To join the bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY TO THE SARL

ZS1820S - 200 YEARS AFTER THE BRITISH SETTLERS LANDED IN SOUTH AFRICA

and

A NEW SATELLITE BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We start the bulletin this morning with news of two silent keys.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Phil Hopper, ZS2PP, went silent on Wednesday 6 May. We extend our sincere condolences to his wife Pam, son Russel, family and friends.

It is with deep regret that we announce that the key of Glen Marshall, ZS6CX, went silent on Sunday 10 May after contracting COVID-19 on a sailing trip from Brazil to Lisbon. Glen died in a hospital in Germany. We extend our sincere condolences to his parents, Bryan, ZS1NQ and Bernice; his wife Susan, his three sons and one daughter and his four grandchildren, family and friends.

PAUSE

ZS3 SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

The ZS3 Sprint is on the air from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC this afternoon with CW and phone activity on 40 metres. The exchange is an RS(T) and your provincial or country abbreviation. Submit your log by 25th May 2020 to zs3nc@qsl.net. Get the rules on page 58 of the Blue Book.

HAPPY 95TH BIRTHDAY TO THE SARL ON WEDNESDAY 20 MAY

The SARL celebrates its 95th anniversary on Wednesday 20 May 2020. Let us go back 95 years. The year 1925 saw the formation of the South African Radio Relay League (SARRL), but in considering our history we must remember some radio societies that existed before that date, as many of their members became the nucleus of our League. We think of the Transvaal Radio Society and the Radio Society of South Africa in Cape Town.

For some time prior to 1925, there was a conviction among those engaged in transmitting that they should form a society in South Africa on somewhat similar lines to the ARRL, as the radio societies then existing did not quite embrace the ideals required. Only those who have had actual experience of such an undertaking will realise the difficulties that had to be surmounted, but in the capable hands of Raymond Coombs and L. E. Green in Johannesburg, the spadework of the organisation was enthusiastically and successfully performed.

On Wednesday 20 May 1925, the South African Radio Relay League was established with Raymond Coombs as the Honorary Organising Secretary. In this initial work valuable assistance was rendered by such stalwarts as Mr Pleass, A4M, Mr Fisher, A3K and others in Johannesburg, while Mr Streeter, A4Z, at the Cape, Mr Dixon-Bennett, A3V in Bloemfontein, Mr Davidson, 1SR in Rhodesia and Mr Heywood, A3E and Douglas Mail, A5B in Durban, did yeo-

man service in the cause. They established the temporary headquarters of the SARRL in Johannesburg.

SARL 95 BIRTHDAY CERTIFICATE

ZS95SARL will be on the air on Wednesday 20 May to celebrate the 95th birthday. Work ZS95SARL on HF, VHF and UHF during the day and then submit a list of stations worked to secretary@sarl.org.za by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 24 May. Your PDF certificate will be e-mailed to you. The information required is your name, surname and call sign together with the time, call sign, name and frequency of the stations worked.

ZS1820S - 200 YEARS AFTER THE BRITISH SETTLERS LANDED IN SOUTH AFRICA

It is hard to believe that 200 years ago the British Settlers arrived at Algoa Bay and settled down. Spare a thought for how their lives must have changed - suddenly in the harsh Eastern Cape with none of the luxuries they had before! In honour of this event, the Port Elizabeth Amateur Radio Society is operating the call sign ZS1820S for the rest of this year. If you are a valid Class A license holder, residing in the Eastern Cape, you are welcome to book a slot and operate the call sign. Contact PEARS. QSL for the call sign is via the SARL Electronic QSL, ClubLog and LoTW. For further information about these extraordinary people, you can visit www.1820settlers.com or Google '1820 Settlers.'

SARL News is also aware of ZS200W, celebrating the 200th birthday of Worcester in the Western Cape.

MEMBERSHIP INVOICES SENT OUT

The SARL Membership Invoices for 2020/2021 are being sent out by e-mail as from 16 May 2020.

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

SARL WEDNESDAY 80 M CLUB SPRINT

The third Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint takes place from 17:00 to 18:00 UTC on Wednesday 20 May with phone and CW activity looking to work as many grid squares as possible. The exchange is an RS or RST report and your 4-character grid square. Submit your log by 23:59 CAT on Sunday 24 May to zs4bfn@mweb.co.za. The rules are on page 64 of the Blue Book.

A NEW SATELLITE BOOK NOW AVAILABLE

The new ARRL “Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners” is now available in South Africa. With the opening of e-commerce, PostNet is operating again and books can be dispatched to your nearest PostNet. You can make contacts through amateur radio satellites and even with the International Space Station, using equipment you probably own right now! All it takes is the right information, which you will find in “Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners” by Steve Ford.

There are dozens of spacecraft in orbit just waiting for your signals and more are being launched every year. This book is your guide to an alternative world of operating enjoyment. “Amateur Radio Satellites for Beginners” will introduce you to new experiences that you may have thought were out of your reach. Start reading and discover how easy it can be! To order the book visit www.amateurradio.org.za.

AMSAT SA DUAL BAND YAGI AGAIN AVAILABLE

The AMSAT SA 2m/70cm handheld Yagi is again available. For more details visit www.amsatsa.org.za. Deliveries only via PostNet, no personal collection is allowed. Up to 4 Yagis can be shipped in one parcel reducing the PostNet cost to only R30 each.

CONTESTING NEWS

For the CW enthusiasts, the weekend of 30 and 31 May sees the running of the CQ WPX CW contest. It is a 48-hour contest and single operators may operate 36 of the 48 hours. Activity is on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 metres and the exchange is an RST report and a progressive contact serial number. Get the full set of rules at: www.cqwpw.com/rules.htm

The SARL VHF/UHF QSO Party takes place from 12:00 to 16:00 UTC on Saturday 6 June 2020, with the Hammies Sprint from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC on Sunday 14 June 2020. The SARL Youth Sprint takes place from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC on Tuesday 16 June and World QRP Day is Wednesday 17 June.

Get your antenna ready for top band. The SARL Top Band QSO Party takes place from 00:00 UTC on Thursday 18 June 2020 to 00:00 UTC on Monday 22 June 2020 with CW and SSB activity on 160 m.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to remain at low levels. There are no sunspots visible on the solar disk. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around one. The 15 to 30 m bands will, especially by late afternoon, provide some good DX fun. For more information, please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today – The ZS3 Sprint

20 May – The 95th birthday of the SARL and the SARL Wednesday 80 m Club Sprint

30 and 31 May – The CQ WPX CW contest

6 June – The SARL VHF/UHF QSO Party

14 June – The Hammies Sprint

16 June – The SARL Youth Sprint

17 June – The World QRP Day

18 to 22 June – The SARL Top Band QSO Party

To conclude our bulletin, a quick overview of our main news item:

The SARL celebrates its 95th anniversary on Wednesday 20 May 2020. For some time prior to 1925, there was a conviction among those engaged in transmitting that they should form a society in South Africa on somewhat similar lines to the American Radio Relay League, as the radio societies then existing did not quite embrace the ideals required. On Wednesday 20 May 1925, the South African Radio Relay League was established with Raymond Coombs as the Honorary Organising Secretary.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to include in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio program, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 Central African Time. The program can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 Central African Time on 3 620 kHz. We welcome your signal reports, comments and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin compiled by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, edited by Herman Erasmus, ZS6CTA and read by

From the news team, best wishes for the week ahead.